

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed 2/29/2008.
2. Per applicant's request, claims 1-4, 7, 13, 16-18, and 20 have been amended; claims 5, 6, 8-12, 14, 15, and 19 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-4, 7, 13, 16-18, and 20 are allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert P. Lord on 5/28/2008. Although, claim 13 has been amended but examiner believes that claim 13 needs to include the missing limitations found in the other independent claims 1 or 18 in order to put claim 13 in allowable condition. The examiner's amendment is necessitated to clarify the claimed invention.

Claims 13, 14, 16, and 17 have been amended as follow:

Please add to the end of the currently amended claim 13 the following limitations:

wherein the first action is provided by a first consumer associated with the first per-consumer buffer, and

wherein the second action is provided by a second consumer associated with the second per-consumer buffer.

Claim 14 is now cancelled.

Both currently amended claims 16 and 17 depend on claim 13.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phillip H. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 270-1070. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Y. Zhen can be reached on (571) 272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2191

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6/5/2008.

/Wei Zhen/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2191